AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preparing a tibia for knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a tibial base having a center axis; and

a handle having a longitudinal axis coaxially aligned to the center axis of the tibial base, the handle coupled to the tibial base only at ~~an~~ one ~~anterior base~~ location on a periphery of the tibial base, the location being ~~that is~~ offset relative to the center axis and defining a clearance for avoiding tissue impingement.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of a tibial template, a trial tray, a punch guide, a cutting guide, a reaming guide, an alignment guide, and combinations thereof.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a link extending from the base at an offset relative to the center axis and coupled with the handle.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein the offset is in a medial direction when the base engages a surface of the tibia.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is reversible such that the offset is in the medial direction for right and left knee surgery.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preparing a tibia for knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a reversible base operable to engage ~~in~~ and contact a surface of the tibia, the base having a center axis;

only one ~~a~~ link having first and second ends, the first end coupled to the base at only one ~~at a~~ position that is medially or laterally offset from the center axis and defining a clearance for avoiding tissue impingement; and

a handle having a central longitudinal axis coaxially aligned with the center axis of the base, the handle coupled to the second end of the link.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link and the handle are integral to the base.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link is integral to the handle.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link defines a longitudinal axis that is at an angle with the center axis of the base.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the angle is about 15° to about 45°.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the link has a curved portion between the base and the handle, the curved portion defining ~~a lateral~~ the clearance, the clearance extending beyond the center axis of the base.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preparing a tibia in knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a tibial base having a center axis; and

a handle having a central longitudinal axis substantially parallel to the center axis of the tibial base, the handle having a first end, the first end coupled to the base only at one location offset relative to the center axis, the first end having a medially offset cutout, the cutout defining a lateral clearance for avoiding tissue impingement, the lateral clearance extending beyond the center axis of the base and beyond the longitudinal axis of the handle.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the cutout has a curved portion adjacent to the base.

20-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the center axis lies on a median plane of the tibia when the tibial base is positioned on a tibial surface.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the center axis is coplanar with the tibial base.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the center axis is coplanar with the base.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the center axis lies on a median plane of the tibia when the ~~tibial~~ base is positioned on the surface of the tibia.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preparing a tibia in knee surgery, the apparatus comprising:

a tibial base; and

a handle extending substantially along a longitudinal axis, the handle having first and second ends, the first end of the handle attached to the tibial base at ~~an anterior~~ only one location of the tibial base that is offset from the longitudinal axis of the handle for avoiding tissue impingement.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the first end includes a cutout defining a clearance between the longitudinal axis and the ~~anterior~~ location of attachment to the tibial base.